

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney would like to thank Examiner Halpern for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of October 21, 2005.

As we discussed, the previously pending claims 38-76 have been canceled in view of new claims 77-115, including independent claims 77 and 96. For instance, independent claim 77 is directed to a wound or stacked product. The wound or stacked product comprises a plurality of paper sheets. Each paper sheet has a surface that defines ridges and valleys oriented in a first direction. The paper sheets are positioned adjacent to each other when stacked or wound such that the ridges and valleys of each paper sheet are substantially parallel to said ridges and valleys of adjacent paper sheets when stacked or wound on stacked.

According to claim 77, bridging regions are formed into each surface of the paper sheets. The bridging regions have a length sufficient to extend across at least two of the ridges. The bridging regions have a length-to-depth ration of from about 5:1 to about 40:1. The bridging regions at least partially obstruct the ridges and valleys of the surface of each paper sheet from mating with the ridges and valleys of the surface of adjacent paper sheets to inhibit nesting between each paper sheet when stacked or wound into the product.

As discussed in the present application, when one or more paper sheets having ridges and valleys are rolled or stacked to form a product, the ridges and valleys of one paper sheet mate with the ridges and valleys of an adjacent paper sheet, thereby causing the rolled or stacked product to become more tightly packed and thus reducing roll or stack bulk. By imparting various bridging regions into a surface of the paper

sheet, such nesting can be inhibited. Page 4, line 24 through Page 5, line 4. Inhibiting nesting in this manner results in greater roll or stack bulk of the final wound or stacked product.

For example, the bridging regions required in independent claim 77 at least partially obstruct the ridges and valleys of adjacent paper sheets from mating to inhibit nesting between the first paper web and the second paper web when stacked or wound into the paper product, resulting in increased roll or stack bulk in the final paper product.

In the Office Action, claims 38-48 and 51-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,348,131 to Kershaw, et al. Kershaw, et al. is generally directed to embossing a multi-ply paper product to enhance bulk, softness, and appearance of the product. Col. 2, lines 62-64. Kershaw, et al. discloses that design elements, in the form of embossed shapes, such as longitudinal undulations, are uniformly repeated over the surface of the sheet or are provided in clusters. Col. 9, lines 18-22. These embossments are provided to each ply of a multi-ply paper sheet. Col. 9, line 64 – Col. 10, line 10. Thereafter, the embossed plies are joined together into a multi-ply product. Col. 10, lines 11-16.

According to Kershaw, et al., the multi-ply paper sheet formed by their disclosed processes can have enhanced bulk by displacing in the cross-direction so that the “peaks” of the undulations of one ply are either bound with the peaks or the “valleys” of the undulations of the other ply. Col. 11, lines 9-13. If the peaks and valleys of one ply are opposed to the peaks and valleys of the other ply, a very thick, soft two ply web will be formed. Col. 11, lines 15-18.

However, Kershaw, et al. does not disclose or suggest preventing nesting between the multi-ply paper sheet when it is wound or stacked. Kershaw, et al. only discloses increasing the bulk of the paper sheet made from at least two plies, not increasing the bulk of the rolled or stacked product by inhibiting nesting between the wound or stacked sheets of the final product. In fact, Kershaw, et al. fails to disclose or suggest that nesting between their paper products can be inhibited when the paper sheets are wound or stacked into a final product.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the teachings of Kershaw, et al. as attempted by the Office Action. Kershaw, et al. is directed to increasing the bulk of a multi-ply paper sheet, as opposed to the wound or stacked product formed from a plurality of paper sheets that are wound or stacked into a final product.

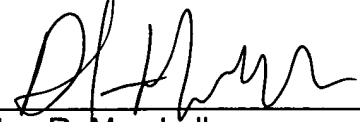
As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to inhibit nesting between the paper sheets in a wound or stacked paper product, to increase roll or stack bulk from the disclose of Kershaw, et al. As disclosed by the present application, inhibiting nesting between the paper sheets of a wound or stacked product can provide a product with increased roll or stack bulk.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in complete condition for allowance, thus favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should Examiner Halpern have any further questions or concerns, he is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 31, 2005